

Claims:

1. A method for representing sensory perception of one or more odorants comprising:

- 5 (a) providing a representative class of n olfactory receptors or ligand-binding domains thereof;
- (b) measuring values X_1 to X_n representative of at least one activity of the one or more odorants selected from the group consisting of binding of the one or more odorants to the ligand-binding domain of at least one of the n
- 10 olfactory receptors, activating at least one of the n olfactory receptors with the one or more odorants, and blocking at least one of the n olfactory receptors with the one or more odorants; and
- (c) generating a representation of sensory perception from the values X_1 to X_n ;

15 wherein at least one of the n olfactory receptors has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 33, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID

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5 NO: 503, SEQ ID NO: 505, SEQ ID NO: 507, SEQ ID NO: 509 and SEQ ID NO:
511.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the olfactory receptors
specifically recognizes the odorant, and there are between 5 and 350 of the n olfactory
10 receptors selected from the listed amino acid sequences.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least two different activities are measured
to provide the values X_1 to X_n .

15 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein each odorant receptor is expressed in cells,
and the cells expressing each odorant receptor are located at an identifiable position.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one olfactory receptor is soluble, and
binding of odorant to a ligand-binding domain of the soluble olfactory receptor is
20 measured in solution.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one olfactory receptor is in solid state,
and binding of odorant to a ligand-binding domain of the solid-state olfactory receptor
is measured on a substrate.

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7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the value measured for binding is above a
preset limit for specific binding to olfactory receptors.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the value measured for activating an olfactory
30 receptor is derived from a signal selected from the group consisting of intracellular
 Ca^{2+} , cAMP, cGMP and IP3.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the value measured for activating an olfactory receptor is above a preset limit for specific activation.
10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the value measured for blocking an olfactory
5 receptor is at least a reduction in binding of the odorant or activation by the odorant.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the representation of sensory perception is generated with a neural network.
- 10 12. A biosensor comprised of the n ligand-binding domains or olfactory receptors of Claim 1.
13. A method for producing a database of odorant representations comprising:
15 (a) providing one or more known odorants and
(b) generating a representation of the one or more known odorants in accordance with the method of Claim 1 to produce the database.
14. A database produced by Claim 13.
- 20 15. A method of identifying an unknown odorant comprising:
(a) measuring values X_1 to X_n representative of at least one activity selected from the group consisting of binding the unknown odorant to a ligand-binding domain of at least one of n olfactory receptors, activating at least one of n olfactory receptors with the unknown odorant, and blocking at
25 least one of n olfactory receptors with the unknown odorant;
(b) generating a representation of the unknown odorant from the values X_1 to X_n ; and
(c) comparing the unknown odorant's representation to the database of Claim 14 to identify the known odorant which is most similar in
30 representation.
16. A method of producing an artificial odorant comprising:

(a) measuring values X_1 to X_n representative of at least one activity selected from the group consisting of binding a desirable odorant to a ligand-binding domain of at least one of n olfactory receptors, activating at least one of n olfactory receptors with a desirable odorant, and blocking at least one of n olfactory receptors with a desirable odorant;

(b) generating a representation of the desirable odorant from the values X_1 to X_n ;

(c) decomposing the desirable odorant's representation into representations of known odorants from the database of Claim 14 or

10 superposing known odorants' representations from the database to reproduce
the desirable odorant; and

(d) formulating the known odorants to reproduce sensory perception of the desirable odorant and thereby produce the artificial odorant.

15 17. An artificial odorant produced by Claim 16.

18. A method of identifying a primary odorant related to sensory perception comprising:

(a) providing a representative class of n olfactory receptors or ligand-binding domains thereof,

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(b) measuring at least one activity of an odorant selected from the group consisting of binding of the candidate odorant to the ligand-binding domain of at least one of the n olfactory receptors and activating with the candidate odorant at least one of the n olfactory receptors, and

25 (c) identifying the candidate odorant as a primary odorant if only one or less than 10% of the representative class of n olfactory receptors is bound or activated;

wherein at least one of the n olfactory receptors has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 33, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 37, SEQ ID NO: 39, SEQ ID NO: 41, SEQ ID NO: 43, SEQ ID NO: 45, SEQ ID

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19. A primary odorant identified by Claim 18.

20. A method of identifying a compound which blocks activation by a odorant of
 at least one olfactory receptor comprising:

- 25 (a) producing a structurally-related candidate compound from a ligand of
 the at least one olfactory receptor,
 (b) measuring activation by the odorant of the at least one olfactory
 receptor with the candidate compound, and
 (c) identifying the candidate compound as a compound which blocks
 30 activation if activation of the at least one olfactory receptor is reduced or
 inhibited;

wherein at least one of the olfactory receptors has an amino acid sequence selected
 from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID

NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID
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25 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the ligand is a primary odorant.

22. A compound which blocks activation of an olfactory receptor identified by
 Claim 20.